4. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet has substantially equal contact areas at outermost levels on opposite sides thereof.

5. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the repeating pattern further comprises connecting webs connecting adjacent said shaped protuberances, said connecting webs being located at a middle level between uppermost and lowermost levels of said sheet.

6. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 5, wherein some of the connecting webs extend in a first direction and others extend in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

7. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1 , wherein the shaped protuberances are tessellatable.

8. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet, comprising front and rear surfaces, at least one of the surfaces having a repeating pattern therein;

the repeating pattern comprising shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances and at least one of the gaps;

wherein the shaped protuberances are "T" shaped in plan.

9. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material is thermoplastics, and a distance between uppermost and lowermost levels of said sheet is less than or equal to about 5 times a thickness of said material layer.

10. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet, comprising front and rear surfaces, at least one of the surfaces having a repeating pattern therein;

the repeating pattern comprising shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances and at least one of the gaps;

wherein the gaps between the shaped protuberances are filled with insulating foam.

12. (Amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the shaped protuberances comprises a top surface atop side walls which are rounded, beveled or sloped relative to a direction perpendicular to a plane of the packaging sheet.

Please add new claims as follows:

--13. The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said shaped protuberances together with said foam filled in said gaps define a substantially planar face.

14. The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said foam overfills said gaps so as to protrude beyond an outermost face of said shaped protuberances.

15. The protective packaging sheet of claim 14, wherein said foam defines a substantially planar face.

16. The protective packaging sheet of claim 13, further comprising printed indicia on said substantially planar face.

17. The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said foam is presented on both the front and rear surfaces of said sheet, at levels coelevational with outermost points of the front and rear surfaces.

18. The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet is made of a hardened thermoplastic material.

19. The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in^2 without being flattened.

20. The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of from about 390 to less than about 500 lbf/in^2 without being totally flattened.

21. The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said material layer is made of hardened thermoplastic.

22. The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in^2 without being flattened.

23. The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of from about 390 to less than about 500 lbf/in^2 without being totally flattened.

24. The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said material layer has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 1 mm.

25. The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as a distance between outermost portions on opposite sides thereof when no load is applied on said sheet, said material layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain at least 70 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

26. The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as a distance between outermost portions on opposite sides thereof when no load is applied on said sheet, said material layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain from about 70 to about 80 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

27. The protective packaging sheet of claim 8, wherein each of said T shaped protuberances has a cross bar extending in a first direction and an upright part extending from a middle portion of said cross bar in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction;

the repeating pattern further comprises connecting webs connecting adjacent said shaped protuberances, wherein the connecting webs constitute a first set of connecting webs extending in the first direction and a second set of connecting webs extending in the second direction.

28. The protective packaging sheet of claim 27, wherein each connecting web in the first set is co-linear with the cross bar of at least one T shaped protuberance, and each connecting web in the second set is co-linear with the upright part of at least one T shaped protuberance.

29. A protective packaging sheet, comprising a thermoplastic layer that is shaped to have a repeating pattern, wherein

the repeating pattern comprises shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances and at least one of the gaps; and

the thermoplastic layer has a sufficient strength to maintain the repeating pattern when no external force is acting on said layer.

30. The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein each of said shaped protuberances has a top surface and side walls extending downwardly from the top surface, the top surfaces of said shaped protuberances together define a top contacting surface of said sheet, said sheet further having a bottom contacting surface spaced from said top contacting surface by a distance greater than a material thickness of said thermoplastic layer.

31. The protective packaging sheet of claim 30, further comprising an additional material layer laminated to said thermoplastic layer and defining the bottom contacting surface.

32. The protective packaging sheet of claim 31, wherein said material layer and the bottom contacting surface are substantially planar.

33. The protective packaging sheet of claim 31, further comprising air trapped between said thermoplastic layer and said additional material layer.

34. The protective packaging sheet of claim 32, further comprising air trapped between said thermoplastic layer and said additional material layer.

35. The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in2 without being flattened.

36. The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein said thermoplastic layer has a material thickness of from about 0.5 to about 1 mm.

37. The protective packaging sheet of claim 30, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as the distance between said contacting surfaces when no load is applied on said sheet, said thermoplastic layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain at least 70 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened. --